UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/103
1 February 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 30 January 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the fact that on 13 January 1999 an aide to the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs entered northern Iraq through Turkish territory at the head of a delegation from the United States and British intelligence agencies and accompanied by a number of officials from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in gross violation of Iraq's sovereignty, of the norms of international law and of the provisions of the domestic laws of States that prohibit entry into their territory without the approval of the national authorities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 10 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have to inform you that the United States and British Administrations are still persisting in their acts of aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and independence of Iraq. This is exemplified by the fact that, on 13 January 1999, a certain Elizabeth Jones, an aide to the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, entered northern Iraq through Turkish territory at the head of a delegation from the United States and British intelligence agencies and accompanied by a number of officials from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The fact that this United States Government official and all the officials who were with her - Americans, British and Turks - entered the territory of Iraq without the approval of the official Iraqi authorities constitutes an egregious violation of Iraq's sovereignty. It is in breach of all the relevant norms of international law and of the domestic laws by which States prohibit entry into their territory without the approval of the national authorities. Such laws grant States the right to subject those who enter their territory without their approval to prosecution under their legal system to the full extent of the law, regardless of the rationale for their unlawful entry.

The Government of Iraq strongly condemns these illegal and unlawful acts that are being committed by senior officials of the United States, the United Kingdom and Turkey, and it regards them as fully in keeping with the constant and frenzied attacks perpetrated by these States against Iraq.

The Government of Iraq has previously drawn your attention and that of the Security Council to the serious character of such illegal practices, given that they may set a dangerous precedent in international relations that must be firmly resisted.

The Government of Iraq, condemning in the strongest terms these official actions by the United States, the United Kingdom and Turkey as irresponsible and illegal, requests you to intervene directly with the Governments of these States and to urge them to desist from their persistent interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and to honour the Charter of the United Nations, which affirms respect for the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Member States.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq